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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Spain

DATE DISTR. 24 July 1952

SUBJECT Shipowners' Attitude toward Proposed New Merchant Marine Labor Regulations

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Vizcayan Chamber of Navigation agreed about mid-June 1952 to appeal to the Ministries of Commerce, Industry and Labor to give due consideration to the harmful effects on the Merchant Marine of proposed changes in working conditions of merchant seamen.
2. New regulations which reportedly have been proposed by the Spanish government would increase the cost attributable to each member of a vessel's crew by 66 per cent, according to the shipowners. Besides an increase in base pay, reforms in sickness and hospitalization insurance, retirement benefits and widows' pensions are contemplated.
3. A variety of factors already has put the Spanish merchant marine in a precarious situation, according to the fleet owners, who attribute their plight to a series of causes, including continual lowering of freight rates owing to a world oversupply of bottoms, increase in US participation in the field, German and Japanese shipbuilding, and, most importantly, the shortage of dollars which has stymied European trade.

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